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# Message Text

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54
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 H-02 IO-13 L-03

PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SS-15 USIA-06 DODE-00

NSC-05 ACDA-07 NEA-10 AF-08 EA-07 /138 W
---------- 042171
R 161622Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7451
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 07070

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BE, HU
SUBJECT: VISIT BY BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO HUNGARY, JULY 8-10, 197
6

REF: BRUSSELS 6728 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE'S VISIT TO
HUNGARY TOOK PLACE AS SCHEDULED. FOLLOWING INFORMATION
WAS GIVEN US BY FOREIGN MINISTRY CHIEF OF EAST-WEST
AFFAIRS (REUSENS), WHO ACCOMPANIED MINISTER.

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2. HNNGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA REVIEWED MAJOR ISSUES

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IN TERMS SO SIMILAR TO THOS OF CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK, WHO RECENTLY VISIT BRUSSELS, THAT BELGIANS GAINED IMPRESSION BOTH WERE USING SOME SOVIET-PREPARED BRIEFING PAPER.

3. PUJA HAD FOUR MAJOR THEMES:
(A) CONTINUING INTEREST IN DETENTE AND CONCERN THAT FORTHCOMING US AND WEST GERMAN ELECTIONS, ESPECIALLY THE LATTER, MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PROCESS.
(B) DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS SHOULD NOT BE RAISED AT CSCE FOLLOW UP CONFERENCE NEXT YEAR IN BELGRADE.
(C) HOPE THAT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE AT MBFR TALKS IN VIENNA BEFORE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.
(D) DISLIKE OF WESTERN EMPHASIS ON CSCE BASKET III ISSUES AT THE EXPENSE OF BASKET II ISSUES, IN WHICH THE SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES REMAIN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED. PUJA STRESSED NEED FOR BALANCED TREATMENT OF ALL CSCE ISSUES.

4. PUJA GAVE VAN ELSLANDE A DOCUMENT CONTAINING SEVERAL PROPOSALS DESIGNED, ACCORDING TO HIM, TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT OF HELSINKI. BELGIANS ARE STUDYING THE DOCUMENT, BUT HAVE NOT YET FOUND ANY NEW THEMES IN IT.

5. HUNGARIANS REPEATED TO BELGIANS THAT ANY QUESTION OF HUNGARIAN INCLUSION IN CENTRAL EUROPEAN AREA OF REDUCTION FOR MBFR TALKS WAS LINKED TO ITALIAN INCLUSION. THEY EXCLUDED ANY POSSIBLE DANISH INCLUSION AS AN ACCEPTABLE QUID PRO QUO FOR INCLUSION OF HUNGARY. PERHAPS UNRELATED TO MBFR, THEY EXPRESSED A FEAR OF ANY "DISEQUILIBRIUM" IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, WHEN DISCUSSING ITALY.

6. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA (ANGOLA), SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE RECENT CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN BERLIN. PUJA SAID THAT THE SOVIETS AND OTHER EASTERN COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE DUPED FOR A THIRD TIME BY EGYPTIAN MOVES TO PROFIT FROM A RECONCILIATION. HE EXPLAINED AWAY CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIET INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA BY SAYING THE SOUTH AFRICANS WERE THE FIRST TO INTERVENE. VAN ELSLANDE CONTESTED THE LEGAL RIGHT OF AGOVERNMENT TO APPEAL TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT FOR HELP IN SETTLING ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS (WITHOUT DIRECT REFERENCE TO HUNGARY IN 1956, CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1968, OR THE DEBATE OVER PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM, THIS CONVERSATION FOCUSED ON THE CASE OF EAST TIMOR). PUJA PRAISED THE

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COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN THE STATES OF INDOCHINA, AND
WHEN VAN ELSLANDE REMARKED THAT ACCORDING TO WITNESSES
SOCIALISM HAD NOT EMPLOYED VERY ADMIRABLE MEANS TO
ACHIEVE POWER, PUJA ADMITTED HAVE HEARD OF EXCESSES
WHICH HE BLAMED ENTIRELY ON THE CHINESE. THEIR
CONVERSATIONS CONCLUDED WITH VAN ELSLANDE ASKING
PUJA WHAT THE REACTION OF THE SOVIET BLOC STATES
WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD THE EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC
PARTIES HELD A PARTY CONFERENCE IN WEST BERLIN. PUJA'S
ANSWER WAS NOT RECORDED.

7. THE BELGIAN IMPRESSION OF HUNGARY WAS GENERALLY
FAVORABLE, DESPITE THE BOVIOUS SOVIET DOMINATION OF
HUNGARIAN FOREIGN POLICY THEY NOTED. THE BELGIANS
OBSERVED THAT HUNGARY WAS AMONG THE MOST PROSPEROUS
OF THE SOVIET BLOC STATES ECONOMICALLY AND THAT IT
WAS WELL LAUNCHED ON THE WAY TO BECOMING A SOCIETY
OF MASS CONSUMPTION. THEY WERE ALSO PLEASED TO
OBSERVE THAT HUNGARIAN NATIONALISM AND CULTURE
HAD NOT BEEN CRUSHED DESPITE SOVIET POLITICAL
INFLUENCE. THIS OBSERVATION LEFT THE BELGIAN VISITORS
SOMEWHAT ENCOURAGED FOR THE FUTURE LONGTERM EVOLUTION
OF THE HUNGARIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. FIRESTONE

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**TAGS:** PFOR, BE, HU, (VAN ELSLANDE, RENAAT)
**To:** STATE
**Type:** TE
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006